U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Preparedness Directorate
Office of Grants and Training

Homeland Security

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Domestic Preparedness Equipment Technical Assistance Program (DPETAP)

BACKGROUND

The Office of Grants and Training (G&T), within the Preparedness Directorate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has established the Domestic Preparedness Equipment Technical Assistance Program (DPETAP), a comprehensive, National technical assistance program for emergency responders. DPETAP was developed in partnership with the United States Army's Pine Bluff Arsenal, the center of expertise for chemical and biological defensive equipment production and support for the U.S. Department of Defense.

DPETAP provides onsite technical assistance and training to assist emergency responders to better choose, operate, and maintain their chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) detection and response equipment. Training is provided by DPETAP Mobile Technical Assistance Teams at no cost to the jurisdiction. These teams provide detailed technical information and hands-on equipment operation and maintenance training.

DPETAP offers—at no cost to the user—46 courses and practical exercises ranging from one hour to 16 hours in length.

CBRNE DETECTION TECHNOLOGIES

There are four detection technologies courses being offered, with three of the four being designed to train "apprentice through journeymen," from beginners having no prior knowledge of CBRNE-related technologies to the veteran responders in need of a refresher. The courses are:

1. **Introduction to WMD-related Hazardous Material, Substances, and Symptoms**—provides a foundation for those unfamiliar with the "WMD Delta" of hazardous materials.

2. **Intermediate WMD Detection Technologies**—primarily covers Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) detection technologies, types of detection equipment, their capabilities and limitations, and the CBRNE material that can be detected.

3. **Advanced WMD Detection Technologies**—an advanced version of the Intermediate WMD Detection Technologies course.

4. **Radiological Detection Survey Techniques**—provides extensive hands-on practical experience in laying out grids, conducting surveys, and logging data.

DETECTION EQUIPMENT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) COURSES

There are currently 30 hands-on courses that range from one to four hours in length and cover the capabilities, limitations, preoperation, operation, and preventive and corrective maintenance of CBRNE detection equipment.

WMD MASS CASUALTY PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION TRAINING

This 24-hour course presents an in-depth study of the principles and procedures of mass casualty decontamination. Training involves high-energy tabletop exercises and practical applications to reinforce the objectives. Students undergo a rigorous analysis of a mass casualty incident from initial attack to clean-up and reconstitution. Finally, students perform decontamination in four simulated personnel contamination situations: emergency responder, ambulatory victim, non-ambulatory victim, and pre-transport/ER.

WMD PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FIELD TRAINING

This hands-on course covers the following topical modules:

- Introduction to WMD Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- Considerations for the selection of PPE;
- Hot Area Operations; and
- PPE Practical Exercise. (Note: This module consists of a two-part, 12-hour practical exercise.)

OBJECTIVES

Enable emergency responders to gain a necessary level of expertise regarding CBRNE detection, monitoring, protection, and remediation equipment.

DELIVERY METHOD

Mobile teams provide on-site assistance and training as well as training materials and equipment.

TARGET AUDIENCES

Members of all emergency response communities, including:

- Hazardous Materials (HazMat)
- Fire
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Management
- Emergency Medical Services
- Environmental Health

CERTIFICATE

A certificate is issued for each course completed.

PRACTICAL EXERCISES

There are currently seven exercise scenarios. These practical exercises present students with a variety of potential CBRNE event scenarios that require teams to evaluate the conditions; identify effective technologies and detection equipment to be used in each situation; describe how they would use the equipment; and present their findings to the entire class. Hot washes and group discussions follow student team presentations.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about DPETAP, including complete course and exercise descriptions, eligibility, and schedule information, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at **1-800-368-6498** or **askcsid@dhs.gov**.